

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 MC-02 ACDA-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 EUR-12 DHA-02 AID-05

IO-10 SCCT-01 SY-05 SAJ-01 AF-06 /101 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6229

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652C N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, LE

SUBJECT: NYT STORY ON LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT IN LEBANON

1. WIRE SERVICE SUMMARIES OF NYT STORY OF SEPT
13 REPORTING LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT IN LEBANESE
POLITICS FRONT-PAGED IN MANY LEBANESE PAPERS
SEPT 14. CONSERVATIVE PRO-SAUDI "AL-HAYAT", PRO-WEST
"AL-JARIDA", NASSERITE ARAB NATIONALIST "AS-SAFIR",
AND PRO-SOVIET LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY ORGAN
"AN-NIDA" HIGHLIGHT STORY'S REPORTED REFERENCE
TO KAMAL JUMBLATT AND IBRAHIM QUAAYLAT, WHILE
PHALANGE PARTY ORGAN "AL-'AMAL", INDEPENDENT
"L'ORIENT-LE JOUR", AND INDEPENDENT "DAILY STAR"
MENTION NO NAMES.

2. SEPT 15 ISSUE OF LEADING LEFTIST PRO-PLO
"AL-MUHARRIR" COUNTERATTACKS WITH TWO REJOINDERS--
ONE FROM PAPER'S "POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT" AND ONE
FROM QULAYLAT'S INDEPENDENT NASSERITE MOVEMENT --
CRITICIZING MOTIVES OF "ZIONIST-AMERICAN ATTACK"
ON "LEBANESE STRUGGLERS".

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3. POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT OF "AL-MUHARRIR" WRITES:

"NYT ... AIMS TO ACHIEVE TWO THINGS: (A) SUPPORT SECTARIAN AND ISOLATIONIST FORCES IN LEBANON IN BATTLE THEY ARE WAGING AGAINST LEBANON'S ARABISM; (B) ATTEMPT TO BELITTLE IMPORTANCE OF ANY POSITION THESE STRUGGLERS TAKE AGAINST SOLUTIONS AND SETTLEMENTS BEING IMPOSED ON ARAB NATION BY MEANS OF FLASHY SLOGANS. ZIONIST-AMERICAN PAPER ACCUSES KAMAL JUMBLATT OF TAKING LIBYAN MONEY TO FOMENT CIVIL WAR AMONG LEBANESE AND DESCRIBES IBRAHIM QULAYLAT AS A HIGHWAYMAN, A BEIRUT GANSTER AND GANG LEADER, WHILE LEBANESE AND ARABS KNOW THAT KAMAL JUMBLATT IS A MAN OF PRINCIPLES, HEAD OF A PROGRESSIVE SOCIALIST PARTY, A MAJOR NATIONALIST LEADER, AND A PROMINENT WORLD PERSONALITY ... AND THAT IBRAHIM QULAYLAT BELIEVES IN PRINCIPLES OF ETERNAL LEADER GAMAL ABDEL NASSER ATTEMPTS OF PAPER WILL CERTAINLY FAIL, AS HAVE MANY PLOTS U.S. HAS HATCHED IN OUR COUNTRY, THANKS TO STRUGGLE OF THESE MEN AND ALERTNESS OF LEBANESE."

4. INDEPENDENT NASSERITE MOVEMENT DELARES IN COMOUNIQUE: "IT IS NOT SURPRISING FOR REPORTS TO BE FABRICATED AGAINST NATIONALISTS, AND PARTICULARLY AGAINST STRUGGLERS KAMAL JUMBLATT AND IBRAHIM QULAYLAT. NYT, KNOWN FOR ITS CLOSE TIES TO ZIONISM, QUOTES OFFICIALS OF STATE DEPARTMENT AND OF AMEMBASSY BEIRUT (TO WHICH SEVERAL POLITICAL LEADERS OWE THEIR ALLEGIANCE) AS SAYING THAT LIBYA IS FINANCING KAMAL JUMBLATT AND IBRAHIM QULAYLAT TO STIR UP TROUBLES IN LEBANON. WITH ALL DUE RESPECT TO LIBYA'S REVOLUTION AND LEADERS, WE MUST DECLARE THAT IBRAHIM QULAYLAT BELONGS TO ABDEL NASSER'S REVOLUTION AND THAT HIS ACTIONS EMANATE FROM NOTHING BUT ABDEL NASSER'S THOUGHT ... WE WARN ARAB MASSES THAT PLOT HAS TRULY BEGUN. NYT'S STATEMENTS COME JUST AS USG HAS RECALLED ITS AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT ... TO PREPARE DECISIVE NEW ROUND IN WHICH AMERICA AND ITS AGENTS, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC, WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TRY TO LIQUIDATE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE, TO WHOSE PROTECTION WE IN INDEPENDENT NASSERITE MOVEMENT ARE COMMITTED."

5. COMMENT: WE NOTE WITH INTEREST THAT NEIGHER "AL-MUHARRIR" NOR INDEPENDENT NASSERITE MOVEMENT SPECIFICALLY DENIES NYT'S REPORTED STATEMENT THAT JUMBLATT AND QULAYLAT ARE TAKING MONEY FROM

LIBYANS. WHETHER THE LIBYANS GET GOOD VALUE IN
RETURN IS ANOTHER QUESTION. WE SUSPECT JUMBLATT
AND QULAYLAT USUALLY HAVE THEIR OWN REASONS
FOR DOING WHAT THEY DO.

6. SINCE AMBASSADOR GODLEY'S DEPARTURE SEPT 13
ON LEAVE, WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL INQUIRIES
CONCERNING AMBASSADOR'S ABSENCE FROM POST, WHICH
SEPT 12 "AS-SAFIR" ANTICIPATED AND LABELLED A
RECALL. HOWEVER, ONLY INDEPENDENT NASSERITE MOVE-
MENT'S COMMUNIQUE PUTS THIS ABSENCE INTO
PARTICULAR CONTEXT. IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES
WE ARE STATING THAT AMBASSADOR IS ON LOCAL LEAVE IN
REGION (SYRIA AND JORDAN) AND HAS NOT BEEN
RECALLED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, PRESS RELEASES, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BEIRUT11556
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750319-0247
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750951/aaaabsme.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 AUG 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NYT STORY ON LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT IN LEBANON
TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, LE, LY
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006